



# Westbury Crier

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Westbury Pool & Platou Center are open! For events & schedules, see page 11
- WCC Board meeting: July 20, 6:30PM Platou Community Center
- Hot Topics— new city Drainage Fee. See page 6
- July heavy trash is TREE WASTE ONLY

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VOLUME 57, ISSUE 7

JULY 2011

## Platou Community Center will be open for the summer!

A \$350,000 donation from two Houston energy companies has saved eight city pools and seven community centers from closing for the summer. Most importantly to us, it saved OUR community center in Westbury!

At the end of May, the Platou Center, our community center since 1957, was chosen by Houston Parks & Recreation Department as one of the seven community centers to be closed. We, the Westbury Civic Club, fought and are still fighting to keep this vital part of our community open. Over 600 people have signed an online petition ([www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) for the link). On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, about 40 Westbury residents rallied at the Platou Center to protest its closing. Five Westbury residents and board members spoke before City Council at the first budget hearing on June 14. A large group of Westbury residents also attended the second budget meeting to support the amendments drafted by CM Clutterbuck and CM Costello.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District reached out to Houston's generous corporate community to see what could be done for the community centers and pools. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Congresswoman held a press conference announcing a \$350,000 donation from Marathon Oil and Conoco Phillips to help keep the pools and community centers open. On hand to hear the announcement were WCC Board members Becky Edmondson, Cindy Chapman, and Janie Schexnayder. Mayor Parker has pledged to find the additional funding needed to keep the community centers open for the rest of the year.

**We, as a community, will need to work diligently on a plan to ensure that the Platou Center's doors remain open.**

When it comes time to vote this November, let's be sure to get candidates that know and care about Westbury. Attend ANY events where you know City Council candidates will be in attendance. Introduce yourself and your neighborhood! Then make sure you VOTE. Politicians pay attention to VOTERS.



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee & WCC President Becky Edmondson June 20, 2011



Westbury Residents at the SAVE the Platou Center Protest June 3, 2011

**More Platou Info on pg. 11**

## Nominations for the 2012 WCC Board

Calling all Westbury Citizens! Do you want to have some input into what's happening in your community? Volunteer to serve as an officer or representative of your neighborhood in the Westbury Civic Club. We have lots of exciting things going on right now-- light rail issues, new city council districts, landscaping issues, community centers -- you name it. Working as an officer or representative is a fun job with a great group of people, and one that gives you an opportunity to truly be part of "what's happening now". It's a fantastic way to connect with your neighbors and make a difference in your community. Everyone has a responsibility to serve their community -- this is your chance. Please let us know if you would like to be nominated for a position on the Westbury Civic Club board. Please step up and serve your community -- we need you!

Applications (in writing by email to [westburyccl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburyccl@sbcglobal.net) or by mail to the WCC office or dropped off at the WCC office) are due no later than 4 PM on Thursday, August 4, 2011, per our by-laws. Marcia Hartman is chairing the Election Committee.

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Westbury Civic Club, Inc  
Editor: WCC Publication  
Committee  
Printing: Hutson Enterprises

## Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors 2011

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman	wccvp@westburycrier.com
Secretary	Phyllis Frye	wccsecretary@westburycrier.com
Treasurer	Pamela Schertz	wcctreasurer@westburycrier.com

## Directors at Large 2011

Communications	Melissa Denney	wcccommunications@westburycrier.com
Community Relations	Cindy Chapman	wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com
Deed Restrictions	Liz Klingensmith	wccdeedrestrictions@westburycrier.com
Flood Control & Infrastructure	Ken Downey	wccflood@westburycrier.com
Greenspace Beautification	Hazel Potvin	wccmaintenance@westburycrier.com
Membership	Janie Schexnayder	wccmembership@westburycrier.com
Security	Morgan Gaskin	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT	wccvolunteers@westburycrier.com

## Section Directors 2011

Westbury 1	Sylvia Rendon	Westbury1@westburycrier.com
Westbury 2	Shawn Thomas	Westbury2@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3E	Don Bryan	Westbury3E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3W	Ron Brown	Westbury3W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4E	John Cashin	Westbury4E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4W	Vicki Eldridge	Westbury4W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5E	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5W	Sara Roberts	Westbury5W@westburycrier.com
Westbury South	Robert Capps	Westburysouth@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	Parkwest1@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 2	Peter Zografos	Parkwest2@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 3	Dorothy Rhoades	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

## Westbury Civic Club Office

**SUMMER Office Hours:** Mon.—Thurs. 9:30AM— 1:30PM, Closed Friday\*

**Address:** 5322 W Bellfort Ste 107 Houston, TX 77035

**Phone:** 713-723-5437

**Email:** Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

\*The office is closed on all major holidays and weekends

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## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

### Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch

**281-463-6666**

HPD Non-Emergency

713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)

713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront

713-726-7126

Platou Community Center

713-726-7107

Poison Control

1-800-764-7661

Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)

713-207-2222

Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck

832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee

713-755-6111

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**SUMMER WCC OFFICE HOURS: MON-THURS 9:30-1:30, CLOSED FRIDAYS**

# President's Message

Is it just me or do you feel we are under siege? First we had redistricting, then the METRO 90A rail line, then the City had slated the Platou Center for closing on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Inside Westbury we are under siege from residents who operate noxious businesses out of their homes; absentee owners who rent to scofflaws; residents who have garage sales that clog our streets and increase crime; let their dogs bark for hours and run loose through the neighborhood; park their cars in their yards; keep annoying roosters; put out their heavy trash out at the curb weeks ahead of time; and just generally don't know how to be good neighbors. Our pocketbooks are under siege with higher utility costs, higher water bills and now the City drainage fee. Goodness we are even under siege from Mother Nature.

But it's not all bad news, because we are not powerless. Countless hours have been spent working with the city and METRO for solutions. Congresswoman

Lee said that the reason she lobbied for all the centers and pools to stay open for the summer was due to the civic engagement of the neighborhoods protesting the closures. Your section directors and civic board work tirelessly to put a stop to the internal siege from bad neighbors and to promote Westbury in a positive way. Cindy Chapman and I attend meetings as often as 3 or 4 times a week. We recently took the City's new Director of Neighborhoods on a tour to see the good things in Westbury as well as the things that challenge us. This month's Crier has articles about all of these topics.

Join with us as we fight the good fight for Westbury, for our neighborhood, for our investment in our homes, for our families, and for our peace of mind.

Working for Westbury,  
Becky Edmondson

Check out my new blog at:

[http://  
workingonwestbury.blogspot.com](http://workingonwestbury.blogspot.com)

## Board Notes

- Discussed issues of neighborhood importance: METRO, Platou Center closing, new District K candidates
- Reviewed nomination process for the 2012 WCC Board
- Discussed City's 311 issues
- Heard reports from section directors: PW2, W4E, W4W, W5W, W5E, WS
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

Join us for the WCC board meeting on Wednesday, July 20 @ 6:30PM at the Platou Community Center

## Thank You Westbury!

We greatly appreciate the residents who used the past *CRIER* issues to submit their 2011 dues. Here's another chance to submit your dues and help continue to make Westbury a great place to live.

### 2011 Westbury Civic Club Dues

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:  
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.**

**Mail to:  
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Dallas, TX 75397-5182**

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with your payment**

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3 payments of 98.34

Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$36	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$234	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$295</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Additional Contributions:</b>		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$</b>

# The Faces of the Westbury Civic Club



**Becky Edmondson** graduated from Leadership Houston Class XXIX in June. It was an intense ten month journey, but her love of Houston grew tenfold. Many issues facing Westbury were front and center: An Economics class day with the City Controller working theoretically on the budget; an Infrastructure and Urban Planning day discussing transportation; a lunch with city officials discussing important issues; an Education day stressing the needs and challenges facing our neighborhood schools. Becky visited Fondren Middle School and was Principal for a Day at Foerster Elementary. Arts Day was inspiring and she is looking into what it will take to bring one of those big movie screens or a musical performance to a Westbury park for a movie or music night. After completing the Leadership Houston process, Becky concludes, "Yes, we have challenges and much to do, but, when I look at Houston and Westbury, I am reminded that it only takes a handful of committed people to come together to make a difference."

**Phyllis Frye** has shared the last 37 years of her very interesting life with us as a resident of Westbury. An Eagle Scout, Aggie, army veteran, licensed engineer and lawyer, she has lent her talents and education to Westbury -- most notably as civic club Secretary since 2004 (Becky Edmondson is the fourth president she has aided), as leader in the correct placement of the South Main sound wall, as designer of what will probably soon become the installations for the railroad Quiet Zone, and as a strong voice of reason in how the METRO rail will impact our neighborhood. She and her wife of 38 years live in Westbury South where Phyllis, along with Tommie Allen, Linda Leger and many others have spent a decade cleaning up our one-time, but no longer, "seediest" section. Phyllis has been a renowned national leader in LGBT rights movement since the early 1990's. She has a law firm with her name on the door, which is comprised of eight lawyers who cover most aspects of the law. Last year Mayor Parker, with the approval of city council, appointed Phyllis, as an Associate Municipal Judge, who has authority to sign arrest warrants as a Texas Magistrate, as well as marry folks who have a license. Phyllis admits, "I have been honored with having more than my "15 minutes" in the spotlight, and I am very content with what I have done and will still do to make this a better world for us all."



**Vicki Eldridge** is the new section director for Westbury 4W. She has resided in Westbury over 30 years. Vicki was drawn here by Westbury's proximity to the Medical Center, where she worked, and also by the "small town" atmosphere in Westbury. Her hobbies and volunteer work have included animal assisted therapy, teaching English as a second language, and church-affiliated work following Hurricanes Katrina and Ike. She sees Westbury as potentially growing with younger families, updated housing, and as a commuter connection to the growing Ft. Bend area.

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# What's Happening in Westbury

## July 2011 Events & Meetings Calendar

<b>Mon 4</b>	<b>HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!</b> WCC office will be closed Westbury Pool will be OPEN from 1-5PM
<b>Tues 5</b>	Westbury Pool CLOSED
<b>Mon 11</b>	<b>Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30-7:30PM</b> Community Garden under the pavilion—12500 Dunlap Open to the public
<b>Sat 16</b>	<b>Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM</b> Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow
<b>Mon 18</b>	<b>Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM</b> The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
<b>Wed 20</b>	<b>WCC Board Meeting 6:30-8PM</b> Platou Community Center—11655 Chimney Rock ***CHANGE IN TIME AND LOCATION***
<b>Tues 26</b>	<b>SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM</b> Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South
<b>28-30</b>	<b>Yard of the Month Judging—Winners awarded August 1</b> Make sure your yards are ready!

## Important Trash & Recycling Information

- 🗑️ Trash cans need to be out on curb by 7AM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- 🗑️ No heavy trash out before 6PM the Friday before pick-up date
- 🗑️ YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste and will not be collected with heavy trash. It is collected on Westbury's regular Thursday trash day as long as it is in the correct recyclable bags
- 🗑️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- 🗑️ There are 2 Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers nearby:  
**11500 South Post Oak & 10785 Southwest Freeway**
- 🗑️ Refer to [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) for more trash and recycling information

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
WESTBURY ANNUAL MEETING  
IS SEPTEMBER 21. COME MEET  
YOUR NEIGHBORS AND WIN  
GREAT DOOR PRIZES!**

## July 2011 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

<b>Thurs 14</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
<b>Tues 19</b>	Heavy Trash—TREE WASTE ONLY (South of W. Bellfort)
<b>Wed 20</b>	Heavy Trash—TREE WASTE ONLY (North of W. Bellfort)
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
<b>August</b>	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE

**\*PLEASE NOTE: JULY HEAVY  
TRASH IS TREE WASTE ONLY.  
DO NOT PUT OUT HEAVY TRASH  
UNTIL JULY 15TH AT 6PM**



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# Hot Topic: New City Drainage Fee

## Q & A about the New City of Houston Drainage Fee

First the good news: The city has decided that homeowners will not be charged a drainage fee on the first 1,000 square feet of impervious surface located at their property. As a result, your revised drainage fee will now be lower than that indicated on the initial estimate mailed to your home.

### How do I double check that the city calculated my amount of impervious surface correctly?

Go to the website [www.rebuildhouston.org](http://www.rebuildhouston.org) and you can see how satellite imagery was used to estimate the impervious surfaces. The site also has a measuring tool to help you calculate the dimensions. During business hours, a chat feature is available if you have problems using the site tools.

### What if I don't have access to a computer?

Call 713-371-1111 if you don't have a computer or if you have problems using the website.

### What if I think the city calculation is wrong or there are other problems?

Promptly either call or use the website to submit a "Request for Verification and Correction". If using the computer website, you can upload up to five supporting documents. Make sure that you pay your bill, even if you disagree with the calculation, because you will receive a credit on future bills for your overpayments. In some cases, an inspector may need to come to your property to review the situation.

### What if I have gone through the Request for Verification process and I still disagree with the city results?

Appeals will be reviewed by an Independent Hearing Examiner, but the appeal must be requested within 15 days of receiving the verification request back from the city.

### When will the bills which include the new drainage fees begin?

Bills will go out in early July 2011.

### What are some common problems?

Since satellite imagery was used, shadows due to the sun position may make your home look larger than it really is. Sometimes the program did not correctly detect boundaries when a home bordered a bayou.

### What about credits for rainwater collection systems?

The ordinance allows the director to implement credits; however, those refinements will be added in the future.

### Help - I am having problems getting my issues resolved!

Please let the WCC know if you have experienced problems with the Request for Verification and Correction process.

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# Security / Crime

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Area Patrol  
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your dues**  
(see page 3)

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## Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37 \* 30 days preceding June 13, 2011

	Single-Family Residential	Apartment/ Condominium	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	8	3	5	0	16
Theft	6	6	6	1	19
Auto Theft	3	2	0	0	5
Robbery	0	0	1	1	2
Assault	1	3	2	1	7
Rape	1	0	0	0	1
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>50</b>

\*Area bounded by: S. Post Oak, US 90/S. Main, utility easement north of Willowbend and drainage bayou west of Braewick

## This Month in Westbury History

The first *Westbury Crier* was published in July 1956. We have 55 years of monthly history at our fingertips. Here are some headlines and stories from the past.

### July 1956

◆ The introductory issue: The News? 72 residents attended the July WCC meeting; 22 members attended the Westbury Garden meeting; volunteers needed for the Volunteer Fire Department. SPEED CONTROL—Stop signs and 30 MPH speed limit signs installed. The life you save may be the pitcher on next year's Little League team.

### July 1964

◆ Mayor Louie Welch snipped the red ribbon opening the Hillcroft bridge over Brays Bayou. West Belfort will soon open across Post Oak.

### July 1966

◆ Garage Sales are a violation of the deed restrictions in Westbury. If you do not have enough self respect to obey the deed restrictions, please respect your friends & neighbors. These garage sales attract people and increase crime. PLEASE—no more garage sales.

### July 1975

◆ Westbury Bus Survey—with the high cost of gasoline and crowded streets would you ride a bus?

### July 1979

◆ Summer concerts in Hager Park with Bayou Banjo Club and Houston Community Orchestra

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# Outdoors in Westbury



## Yard of the Month June Winners

### Parkwest 1

5627 Hummingbird—Harry & Cappy Selig

### Parkwest 2

5730 Benning—Michael & Samara Hurley

### Parkwest 3

11515 Dunlap—Don Denton

### Westbury 1 & 2

5135 Torchlight—Wayne & Cindy Patterson

### Westbury 3

5827 McKnight—Jerry Kramer

### Westbury 4

5806 Ludington—Anne Casella

### Westbury 5

10730 Kirkside—Rob & Erin Robleto

### Westbury South (see photo)

5707 Alvarado—Tracy Freeman

## Audubon Bird Survey

Willow Waterhole Monthly bird survey will be Saturday, July 16, at 7AM. Meet at The Gathering Place— 5310 South Willow

## Yard of the Month Update

We are pleased to announce that our good friends at **Scotts Miracle-Gro** are sponsoring our Yard of the Month program by donating Scotts products to our winners! You might remember that the Community Garden was the grateful recipient of a \$10,000 grant from Scotts last year. Judges are encouraged to consider a variety of gardening styles for awards, since Westbury has a wide range of garden types ranging from formal to cottage, exotics to natives, sunny to shady, and traditional to unconventional. Trash violations disqualify a home from consideration. June's lucky winners will receive a gift from Scott's Miracle-Gro. Congratulations to June's winners. It was hard to choose section winners with so many wonderful yards. If you have a yard, or see a yard, that you think is a good choice for Yard of the Month, call or email the address to the WCC office.

## Protect your Property and Trees from Drought

Texas and Houston are in an extended drought. If you are new to Houston, our soil is made of clay that dramatically expands or contracts depending upon water content. Such movement can damage your house foundation. Slow and deep watering around your foundation will reduce damage.

Trees, even those which are well-established, are suffering from the severe lack of water during the drought. If you wait until you see signs that your trees are

in distress, then they are already in danger. Stressed trees will be more brittle and likely to drop limbs, plus they will be more susceptible to insect damage, or they may even slowly die. Protect your trees by watering your trees slowly and deeply. A watering schedule that is adequate to maintain a lawn will not maintain a tree. A rule of thumb during a drought is to give small, one-year old trees 28 gallons of water per week, two-year olds 56 gallons a week and three year olds 112 gallons.

Immediately report leaks in city water lines to 311. Water breaks are common during dry weather and the city is already experiencing hundreds of leaks across the city and contributing to lower water pressure. Pay attention to city watering suggestions. Voluntary watering guidelines were implemented in June due to low water pressure across Houston.

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# Getting to Know Westbury Esplandes

The initial impression given to visitors of our Westbury neighborhood come from our esplanades (rhymes with Everglades), otherwise known as road medians. Westbury is blessed to have over seven linear miles of esplanades, most of which are far broader than typical for Houston. Although the city mows our esplanades, the Westbury Civic Club works to make them special and our Greenspace Beautification Committee has won awards for its efforts. Many of the trees were planted by the WCC and we continue to plant trees. The roses and flowers and most of the other plantings on our esplanades were purchased by and continue to be maintained by the WCC. We have a longer term vision to create trails along the broader esplanades in Westbury.



Recently the WCC has worked to refresh and revitalize the gardens surrounding our subdivision marker signs and we have received two city matching grants (one for \$3,000 and the other for \$4,082) during the past three years. The signs were power-washed, plantings, which had obscured the signs, were replaced with decorative stones, and new flowers and shrubs were planted. Although the new plantings were selected to eventually become drought-resistant, this year's record-breaking drought has been hard on the plants as they have struggled to become established. The WCC has been paying a contractor to do weekly watering of the young

plants during the drought, and volunteers have been hauling water to do hand-watering up to three times per week. Let's give a big Westbury THANKS to Karen Schubert, Donna and Tony Robert, and Emily and Ron Smith for their watering efforts to save our new plants. Please contact the WCC office if you would like to help water our plants.

We have been very fortunate that another partner, Trees for Houston, had agreed last fall to water new trees on our esplanades if we arranged for the trees to be planted and mulched. Trees for Houston is watering our new trees weekly, but they are struggling to find

enough money to pay for the many trees they are watering across Houston in this drought.

According to Trees for Houston, "The current drought conditions - the worst in half a century - have dramatically increased the demand for Trees for Houston's watering and maintenance services. We hope you will consider supporting Trees for Houston's watering efforts as we embark on a long, hot summer. It costs \$75 to water one tree for one year". Please go to their website at [www.treesforhouston.org](http://www.treesforhouston.org) to make a donation.

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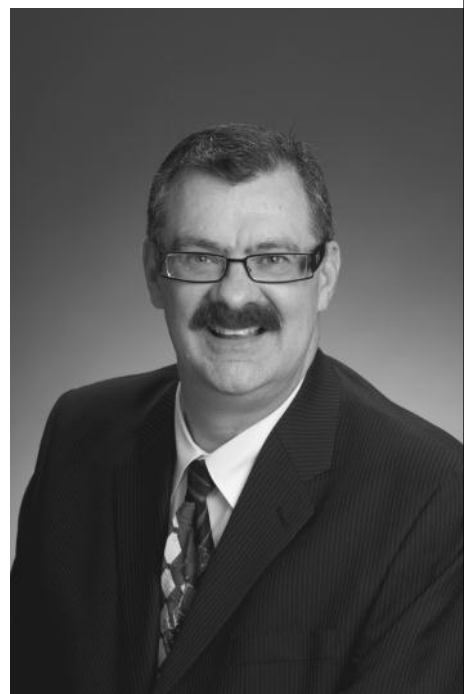
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# Westbury Pool, Platou Community Center, & Community Garden

## Westbury Pool Summer 2011 Schedule

Pool is open daily 1-8PM from June 4 to August 14, Closed on Mondays. On Wednesday and Friday the pool closes at 6PM for the Hydro Fit water class.

Monday July 4—Pool OPEN 1-5PM

Tuesday July 5 - Pool CLOSED

August 20 - September 4— Pool open on Saturday and Sundays only, 1-8PM

September 5 (Labor Day) - Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

Questions? Call pool at 713-723-2192

## FREE Water Aerobics Class

Over 65 people have already signed up for the water aerobics class at the Westbury Pool. The class filled up so fast that they are now offering a 2nd Adult Hydro-Fit Training class Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7-8PM. There is still room available! Sign up at the pool during before the class starts or online at <http://activenet11.active.com/houstonparks/>

The instructor, Louis Moore, is motivating, highly energetic, and amazing. Adult Hydro Fit Training is "An athletic approach to water fitness training with sports-specific drills, intense cardiovascular work, intervals, balance/core training, martial arts, and plyometrics. Loud, rocking music is a part of the workout. Also recommended as a great form of cross-training. Intensity: moderate to hard."

Come join us in the pool and get fit!

## Platou Community Center July 2011 Schedule

The Community Center is open Monday thru Friday from 8AM to 6PM.

\*The City of Houston runs a free lunch program for kids 0 to 18 during the summer

### Weekly Class & Meeting Schedule

Stretching Exercise Class—Monday, Wednesday, Fridays, 9-9:45AM

Westbury Quilting Bee—Tuesdays, 9-10AM

Games—Wednesdays, 10AM

Portable Projects— Thursdays, 9AM

### Possible new classes & meetings:

Bridge—Anyone interested in playing? Call Janie at 713-721-5526

Westbury Moms of Toddlers and Preschoolers - Call Jennifer at 713-446-6113

Kid's Craft Class—Call Jennifer at 713-446-6113

### WCC Special Events:

## Children of Westbury Celebration

Come to the Platou Center Thursday, July 21 from 3PM to 6PM to celebrate the Platou Center staying open for the summer for the children of Westbury. Adults and children welcome. We will have a mystery vehicle to meet, fun crafts, snacks, games, and many more fun events!

If you would like to be on the planning committee or help with the event, please call the WCC office at 713-723-5437

## Sidewalk Chalk Contest

Come out to the Platou Center on Friday July 29 from 9AM to 10AM and give your hand a try at designing with sidewalk chalk. We will have fun games and prizes for adults and kids of all ages

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE (WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM) FOR THE CURRENT PLATOU SCHEDULE AS NEW EVENTS ARE STILL BEING ADDED**

## Westbury Community Garden Update

June's temperatures were more like August's – very hot and humid and more drought. The tomato, bean and squash plants have pretty much played out, while okra and eggplant have been in their hay day, producing very well. The sweet potato vines look lush. The Perpetual and Malabar spinaches continue to produce well. The garden team is planning to construct a few more raised beds, which will make some people on the waiting list happy. A water collection cistern will be installed in the next few months, which will provide rain water for the butterfly garden and the orchards, once we have good rains to fill it up. Most gardeners are coming to the garden early before it gets too hot, or later in the day once temperatures cool down some. We continue to have a productive, great-looking garden.

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# WCC 2011 Budget vs. Actual

	Budget	Actual
<b>General Income</b>		
Transfer + Refinance Fees	21,000	8,200
Advertising— Crier	32,000	12,208
Interest Income	500	429
Mandatory Membership	11,000	10,522
Non-Mandatory Membership	39,000	21,559
Donations—Civic Club	3,550	518
Community Garage Sale	2,000	985
<b>Total General Income</b>	<b>109,050</b>	<b>54,421</b>

<b>Expenses –Administrative</b>		
Insurance	6,300	391
Rent— Office	8,840	2,040
Telephone & Internet	2,500	744
Electricity	700	284
Salaries & Wages	19,000	6,978
Payroll Tax Expense	1,500	652
TEC Unemployment Insurnace	100	0
Taxes Personal Property	500	382
Banking & Paypal Fees	3,500	2,069
Equip. Maintenance & Repairs	300	0
Training—Directors or Staff	1,000	0
Special Project— Office/Deco	1,000	0
Website— Maintenance & Hosting	2,200	660
Computer Hardware/Software	1,500	60
Postage—Regular	600	250
Office Supplies/Equipment	2,000	898
Memberships in External Org.	1,000	0
Professional Services	6,500	0
<b>Total Expenses (Admin)</b>	<b>58,040</b>	<b>15,408</b>

<b>Expenses—General Programs</b>		
Programs/Hospitality/Events	3,000	0
Deed Restriction Revision Project	7,000	0
Deed Restriction Enforcement	2,000	0
Crier— Prepare, print, distribute	27,000	8,425
Membership— Brochures/Envelops	5,000	0
Community Garage Sale Expenses	2,000	1,262
Contributions to External Orgs.	1,500	0
Lease of HHA Property for Garden	10	0
Yard of the Month Program	3,500	0
<b>Total Expenses (General)</b>	<b>51,010</b>	<b>9,687</b>

## WCC Programs with Restricted Funds 2011

### WAP (Constable Patrol -Restricted Funds)

WAP Income	Budget	Actual
Donations	1,000	5,104
Mandatory Assessment	43,000	43,140
Voluntary Assessment	167,464	112,045
Westbury Garden Townhomes	7,800	4,100
<b>Total WAP Income</b>	<b>219,264</b>	<b>164,389</b>

### WAP Expenses

Harris County Constable	219,264	73,088
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### Greenspace Beautification (M&B)

Greenspace Income	Budget	Actual
Home & Garden Tour	1,000	0
Other income/grants	1,500	0
Contributions from Residents	30,000	18,418
<b>Total Greenspace Income</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>18,418</b>

### Greenspace Expenses

Monthly Maintenance with TXL	16,000	5,313
Other (watering, supplies, labor)	10,500	6,616
Special Projects	6,000	1,842
<b>Total Greenspace Expenses</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>13,771</b>

### Information about the Budget vs Actual

- ◆ Actual figures are from January thru April 2011
- ◆ We are spending more than average on watering expenses due to the drought
- ◆ The Crier pays for itself thru advertising
- ◆ The biggest expense is the Westbury Area Patrol. We still need to raise more funds to keep our wonderful constable patrol

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# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

## What you can do

We have a really big neighborhood and each of you are the eyes and ears on the ground. You can help keep Westbury looking good.

### There are things you can do. If you see:

Broken water mains, call 311

Heavy trash out too early, call 311

Trashy junky conditions, call 311

Stray dogs, call BARC 713-229-7300

Neighbors parking in the yard, call Westbury HPD storefront 713-726-7126

**The WCC is here to help too. We can direct you and assist you. 713-723-5437**

We have had good response from absentee owners that we have contacted about rental property. However, the WCC office does NOT report complaints to 311 unless witnessed first hand.

Please remember the WCC is a volunteer organization. We only have a part time employee in the office so you may need to leave a message.

When you call 311, make sure you ask for service number. Report all 311 service numbers and addresses to the WCC office.



A concerned Westbury resident contacted the civic club about a rent house whose renters had moved out 5 days before and left the property trashed. The WCC contacted the property owner, who promptly sent out a cleaning crew who quickly made a trash pile as high as the house before a dumpster arrived onsite. Thanks to a concerned neighbor this health hazard was taken care of immediately.

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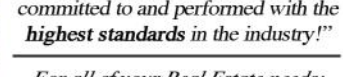
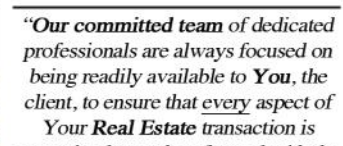


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# Neighborhood and Section News

## Leash Law

The running at large of domestic animals or domestic fowl, within the city limits is hereby declared to be a nuisance and it shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any such animal or fowl to permit the same to run at large within the city.

## New Principal at JMS

Johnston Middle School has a new principal, **Wenden Sanders**, formerly an Assistant Principal at Lanier Middle. Mr. Sanders started in June. He has a music background, which meshes nicely with the Fine Arts magnet program at JMS.

## Subscribe to "The Southwest News"

The weekly newspaper "The Southwest News" often covers issues of interest to Westbury residents. Noreen Hoard's and Betsey Cross' beautiful drainage easement was featured on the front page in June as well as the story to keep the Platou center open. Since the paper is not delivered to all Westbury homes, it is easy to subscribe to the digital edition at <http://www.village-southwest-news.com/register.aspx>

## METRO Survey

Thank you to everyone that has taken our METRO survey. The survey is still being taken. Please visit [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) and follow links or visit the WCC office and pick up a copy. We want your opinion!

**Let's increase our usage of the Platou Center— come visit the community center!**

## Brays Oaks Management District

It's official, we are now part of the Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD).

## Hurricane Preparedness

Contact the Harris County Office of Emergency Management for preparing for a hurricane and tips ([www.hcoem.org/](http://www.hcoem.org/))

## Westbury Square Update

We are continuing to monitor the situation at the "Heart of Westbury". Still no trial date for the November trial. Still no buyer. Still no improvement.

## Save the Date

The Annual Meeting of the Westbury Civic Club will be held on September 21 at 7PM at Westbury High School. Our speaker will be METRO CEO, **George Greanias**. Come meet your neighbors and win great door prizes.

## Garden Club

No meeting in July

## Commercial Businesses operating out of Westbury Homes

All Westbury homes are protected by deed restrictions which limit how the property may be used. One requirement is your property is to be used for residential purposes. The City of Houston Legal Department enforces this deed restriction (and others). Recent violators handled by the city involved: an auto repair business, a landscaping business, and vehicles defined as commercial (tow truck, ambulance, delivery truck, etc) parked on residential property. Violators can be fined and may incur expenses for legal representation in court.



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